



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

8/23/78

AR183

Dear Mr. Dellums:

Thank you for your letter of August 17 concerning Federico Alvarez Rojas, Jr. and Hilda Graciela Leikis de Alvarez Rojas, Jr. who have reportedly disappeared in Argentina. Other members of Congress have also inquired about them.

Our Embassy in Buenos Aires has made a formal inquiry to the Argentine Foreign Office Working Group on Human Rights on their behalf. Unfortunately, the Working Group has notified the Embassy that they have no record of their whereabouts. The Embassy will continue to monitor this case, however, and we will forward any information we receive to you. Embassy officials are also in contact with friends and relatives of Mr. and Mrs. Alvarez Rojas, and Ambassador Castro has met with Mr. Alvarez Rojas' mother.

We have been deeply concerned about the large number of disappearances and other human rights abuses in Argentina, and repeatedly have expressed these concerns to the Government at the highest levels.

As you are aware, we also have taken a number of actions to convey to the Argentines how strongly committed we are to human rights -- grant military training for Argentina has been withdrawn, arms sales have been held back, and we have linked our vote in the International Financial Institutions to the Argentine record on human rights. We have clearly indicated that an improvement in human rights practices is essential to a continuation of good bilateral relations. Approval of any new assistance programs will depend on substantial human rights improvements.

The Honorable,
Ronald V. Dellums,
House of Representatives.

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s): _____

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to _____

Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

Lot 81D208

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As you know, Congress has legislated, as part of the Foreign Assistance Act, that, beginning October 1, there will be no new arms transfers to Argentina without major human rights ~~performance~~ *improvements*.

Yours sincerely,

Roberta Cohen
Human Rights Officer

HA/HR:CEmig 8/23/78